

## Key Characteristics of the Ottoman and Safavid Empires

Characteristics	Ottomans	Safavids
Capital	Istanbul	Isfahan
Dates	1453–1700s	Early 1500s–1722
Strongest ruler	Suleiman	Shah Abbas
Extent of empire	Hungary to Arabia and Mesopotamia, and across North Africa	Bordered Ottoman empire to west and Mughal India to east (present-day Iran)
Type of Islam	Sunni	Shiite
Relationship with Europe	Respected and feared; Ottomans attacked Europe and controlled parts of it	Made military alliances with Europeans against Ottomans.